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**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR VIEWING AND MANAGING INFORMATION  
IN A HISTORY**

**CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

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The present invention is related to *Method and Apparatus for Removing Confidential Information from a History*, serial no. 09/884,493, attorney docket no. An AUS920010544US1 and *Method and Apparatus for Removing Information from a Server*, serial no. 09/884,490, An attorney docket no. AUS920010546US1, filed even date hereof, assigned to the same assignee, and incorporated herein by reference.

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**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

**1. Technical Field:**

The present invention relates generally to an improved data processing system, and in particular to a method and apparatus for managing data. Still more particularly, the present invention provides a method, apparatus, and computer implemented instructions for viewing and managing in a history generated by a browser.

25   **2. Description of Related Art:**

The Internet, also referred to as an "internetwork", is a set of computer networks, possibly dissimilar, joined together by means of gateways that handle data transfer and the conversion of messages from protocols of the sending network to the protocols used by the receiving network (with packets if necessary). When

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capitalized, the term "Internet" refers to the collection of networks and gateways that use the TCP/IP suite of protocols.

The Internet has become a cultural fixture as a  
5 source of both information and entertainment. Many businesses are creating Internet sites as an integral part of their marketing efforts, informing consumers of the products or services offered by the business or providing other information seeking to engender brand  
10 loyalty. Many federal, state, and local government agencies are also employing Internet sites for informational purposes, particularly agencies, which must interact with virtually all segments of society such as the Internal Revenue Service and secretaries of state.  
15 Providing informational guides and/or searchable databases of online public records may reduce operating costs. Further, the Internet is becoming increasingly popular as a medium for commercial transactions.

Currently, the most commonly employed method of  
20 transferring data over the Internet is to employ the World Wide Web environment, also called simply "the Web". Other Internet resources exist for transferring information, such as File Transfer Protocol (FTP) and Gopher, but have not achieved the popularity of the Web.  
25 In the Web environment, servers and clients affect data transaction using the Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP), a known protocol for handling the transfer of various data files (e.g., text, still graphic images, audio, motion video, etc.). The information in various data  
30 files is formatted for presentation to a user by a standard page description language, the Hypertext Markup Language (HTML). In addition to basic presentation

formatting, HTML allows developers to specify "links" to other Web resources identified by a Uniform Resource Locator (URL). A URL is a special syntax identifier defining a communications path to specific information.

- 5   A URL identifies each logical block of information accessible to a client, called a "page" or a "Web page". The URL provides a universal, consistent method for finding and accessing this information, not necessarily for the user, but mostly for the user's Web "browser". A  
10   browser is a program capable of submitting a request for information identified by an identifier, such as, for example, a URL. A user may enter a domain name through a graphical user interface (GUI) for the browser to access a source of content. The domain name is automatically  
15   converted to the Internet Protocol (IP) address by a domain name system (DNS), which is a service that translates the symbolic name entered by the user into an IP address by looking up the domain name in a database.

There are a number of ways to find out what Web  
20   pages have been viewed in a browser. For example, a disk cache is present in which various files, such as graphic images, are stored with respect to a Web page. Additionally, a history list is often recorded to identify URLs that have been visited by a user. Also, a  
25   location list containing URLs entered by the user is present. Other types of disk caches include cookies for various Web sites, which are stored in a cookie file for the browser. This recorded information is an example of a history that may be recorded for a Web page received by  
30   a user or a Web site visited by the user. These histories also may contain confidential or personal information.

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- In some instances, a user may desire to prevent others from identifying confidential or personal information that may be located in history. Currently, a user is required to go back through the history and
- 5 locate the Web pages or cookies that may contain the confidential or personal information and delete the information from the history. The procedure would include, for example, identifying and deleting files in a disk cache and deleting cookies in a cookie file.
- 10 Searching various files or other data structures for confidential or personal information is often difficult and may require the use of multiple applications. Such a procedure is tedious and often difficult for many users.
- Therefore, it would be advantageous to have an
- 15 improved method and apparatus for identifying and removing confidential or personal information from a history.

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**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

- 5        The present invention provides for a method and apparatus for managing confidential information in a graphical user interface in a data processing system. Confidential information is generated within a history generated by a browser in the graphical user interface to
- 10      form a presentation. A user input is received. The confidential information is manipulated using the user input.

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**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

The novel features believed characteristic of the  
5 invention are set forth in the appended claims. The  
invention itself, however, as well as a preferred mode of  
use, further objectives and advantages thereof, will best  
be understood by reference to the following detailed  
description of an illustrative embodiment when read in  
10 conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

**Figure 1** is a pictorial representation of a data  
processing system in which the present invention may be  
implemented in accordance with a preferred embodiment of  
the present invention;

15 **Figure 2** is a block diagram of a data processing  
system in which the present invention may be implemented;

**Figure 3** is a diagram illustrating components used  
in disabling recording of a history in accordance with a  
preferred embodiment of the present invention;

20 **Figure 4** is a block diagram of a browser program in  
accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present  
invention;

**Figure 5** is a diagram of graphical user interface  
for defining privacy preferences in accordance with a  
25 preferred embodiment of the present invention;

**Figure 6** is a diagram of a input window in  
accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present  
invention;

30 **Figure 7** is a diagram of a preview of Web pages in  
accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present  
invention;

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**Figure 8** is a diagram of a Web page presented in a window in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention;

5       **Figure 9** is a flowchart of a process used for removing information from a history in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention;

**Figure 10** is a flowchart of a process used for defining information for removal in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention;

10       **Figure 11** is a flowchart of a process used for defining information for removal in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention; and

15       **Figure 12** is a flowchart of a process used for previewing Web pages containing confidential information in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

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**DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT**

With reference now to the figures and in particular with reference to **Figure 1**, a pictorial representation of a data processing system in which the present invention may be implemented is depicted in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention. A computer **100** is depicted which includes a system unit **102**, video display terminal **104**, keyboard **106**, storage devices **108**, which may include floppy drives and other types of permanent and removable storage media, and mouse **110**. Additional input devices may be included with personal computer **100**, such as, for example, a joystick, touchpad, touch screen, trackball, microphone, and the like. Computer **100** can be implemented using any suitable computer, such as an IBM RS/6000 computer or IntelliStation computer, which are products of International Business Machines Corporation, located in Armonk, New York. Although the depicted representation shows a computer, other embodiments of the present invention may be implemented in other types of data processing systems, such as a network computer. Computer **100** also preferably includes a graphical user interface that may be implemented by means of systems software residing in computer readable media in operation within computer **100**.

With reference now to **Figure 2**, a block diagram of a data processing system is shown in which the present invention may be implemented. Data processing system **200** is an example of a computer, such as computer **100** in

**Figure 1**, in which code or instructions implementing the processes of the present invention may be located. Data processing system 200 employs a peripheral component interconnect (PCI) local bus architecture. Although the 5 depicted example employs a PCI bus, other bus architectures such as Accelerated Graphics Port (AGP) and Industry Standard Architecture (ISA) may be used.

Processor 202 and main memory 204 are connected to PCI local bus 206 through PCI bridge 208. PCI bridge 208 also 10 may include an integrated memory controller and cache memory for processor 202. Additional connections to PCI local bus 206 may be made through direct component interconnection or through add-in boards. In the depicted example, local area network (LAN) adapter 210, small 15 computer system interface (SCSI) host bus adapter 212, and expansion bus interface 214 are connected to PCI local bus 206 by direct component connection. In contrast, audio adapter 216, graphics adapter 218, and audio/video adapter 219 are connected to PCI local bus 206 by add-in boards 20 inserted into expansion slots. Expansion bus interface 214 provides a connection for a keyboard and mouse adapter 220, modem 222, and additional memory 224. SCSI host bus adapter 212 provides a connection for hard disk drive 226, tape drive 228, and CD-ROM drive 230. Typical PCI local 25 bus implementations will support three or four PCI expansion slots or add-in connectors.

An operating system runs on processor 202 and is used to coordinate and provide control of various components within data processing system 200 in **Figure 2**. The 30 operating system may be a commercially available operating system such as Windows 2000, which is available from

Microsoft Corporation. An object oriented programming system such as Java may run in conjunction with the operating system and provides calls to the operating system from Java programs or applications executing on data processing system 200. "Java" is a trademark of Sun Microsystems, Inc. Instructions for the operating system, the object-oriented programming system, and applications or programs are located on storage devices, such as hard disk drive 226, and may be loaded into main memory 204 for execution by processor 202.

Those of ordinary skill in the art will appreciate that the hardware in **Figure 2** may vary depending on the implementation. Other internal hardware or peripheral devices, such as flash ROM (or equivalent nonvolatile memory) or optical disk drives and the like, may be used in addition to or in place of the hardware depicted in **Figure 2**. Also, the processes of the present invention may be applied to a multiprocessor data processing system.

For example, data processing system 200, if optionally configured as a network computer, may not include SCSI host bus adapter 212, hard disk drive 226, tape drive 228, and CD-ROM 230, as noted by dotted line 232 in **Figure 2** denoting optional inclusion. In that case, the computer, to be properly called a client computer, must include some type of network communication interface, such as LAN adapter 210, modem 222, or the like. As another example, data processing system 200 may be a stand-alone system configured to be bootable without relying on some type of network communication interface, whether or not data processing system 200 comprises some type of network communication interface. As a further

example, data processing system **200** may be a personal digital assistant (PDA), which is configured with ROM and/or flash ROM to provide nonvolatile memory for storing operating system files and/or user-generated data.

The depicted example in **Figure 2** and above-described examples are not meant to imply architectural limitations. For example, data processing system **200** also may be a notebook computer or hand held computer in addition to taking the form of a PDA. Data processing system **200** also may be a kiosk or a Web appliance. The processes of the present invention are performed by processor **202** using computer implemented instructions, which may be located in a memory such as, for example, main memory **204**, memory **224**, or in one or more peripheral devices **226-230**.

With reference now to **Figure 3**, a diagram illustrating components used in disabling recording of a history is depicted in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention. Browser **300** is an example of a browser, which may be executing on data processing system **200** in **Figure 2**.

In this example, browser **300** receives Web page **302** for presentation. Web page **302** may be obtained by entering a URL. This URL may be stored in location list **304**. Location list **304** contains URLs entered by the user. These URLs are typically entered through a field, which is often called an "address bar". Additionally, the URL may be stored in history list **306**. Further, history list **306** stores URLs to Web sites visited by the user by other means, such as a selection of a link.

History list **306** also may contain a record of the date and time a Web page was visited by the user.

Cache **308** provides for temporary storage of Web pages received by the browser. For example, images and 5 text for Web page **302** may be stored in cache **308**. Cache **308** provides a quick way to redisplay Web page **302** if the user later returns to Web page **302**. Another storage of information that may be used to trace or identify Web pages visited by a user is cookie file **310**. A hidden 10 data field, which may be included in the HTTP header of an HTML file, is a "cookie" data field. A cookie is an HTTP protocol header document element, which may be used to provide multiple data elements to the browser. Some Web sites may not function properly when the acceptance 15 of cookies is disabled by the browser. Therefore, a user may not be able to access a Web site without having cookies accepted by the browser.

The information collected and stored by browser **300** are examples of data that form a history. The present 20 invention provides a method, apparatus, and computer implemented instructions for disabling or preventing recording of a history. Recording of the history is disabled by disabling the storage of the Web page in cache **308**, and disabling the storage of the URL in 25 history list **306** and location list **304**. Further, storage of cookies for the Web page in cookie file **310** is prevented. The normal processes used to record this type of information may be disabled in response to a disable signal. This disable signal may be generated through 30 various mechanisms. For example, a user may select control, such as a button, displayed on browser **300**. The disable signal also may be generated using selected user

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Ids. For example, if a temporary user logs on to a browser, the persistent storage of history information is disabled. Alternatively, the user may set a preference to disable the recording of histories. The preferences 5 may be, for example, to disable recording at a particular time of the day, a selected day of the week, or for a particular Web site.

This mechanism prevents other users of a data processing system from identifying Web pages and Web 10 sites visited by a user. Such a feature is useful in the situation in which the user is purchasing a surprise gift for a spouse. Additionally, this feature is especially useful with public kiosks, where a user may want to avoid having other users identify Web sites visited by the 15 user.

Location list **304**, history list **306**, cache **308**, and cookie file **310** are described as locations where information forming a history may be recorded. This information also is referred to as history information. 20 These locations and the processes associated with the locations are presented for purposes of illustration and are not meant to limit the mechanism of the present invention to disabling recording of information to these particular locations. The mechanism of the present 25 invention may be applied to disabling any process used to record information that can be used to provide a history of a visit to a particular Web page or Web site. In disabling processes used to record or keep histories, the mechanism of the present invention, in these examples, 30 may employ the concept of a "sandbox" where a point in time is recorded where a user decides to not keep a history. At this point, the browser keeps track of all

activities that occur from that point in time. When the user closes the browser or resets this option in someway, all data relating to a history is then deleted. Another concept that may be used is not keeping track of the  
5 history at all while surfing (i.e. no caching, no history). With this implementation, some information is still retained temporarily, such as cookies, which are kept because the cookies may be used to determine what happens later in a Web site.

10       Turning next to **Figure 4**, a block diagram of a browser program is depicted in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention. A browser is an application used to navigate or view information or data in a distributed database, such as the Internet or  
15 the World Wide Web. In particular, processes may be included within browser **400** to disable recording a history.

      In this example, browser **400** includes a user interface **402**, which is a graphical user interface (GUI) that allows the user to interface or communicate with browser **400**. This interface provides for selection of various functions through menus **404** and allows for navigation through navigation **406**. For example, menu **404** may allow a user to perform various functions, such as  
20 saving a file, opening a new window, displaying a history, and entering a URL. Navigation **406** allows for a user to navigate various pages and to select web sites for viewing. For example, navigation **406** may allow a user to see a previous page or a subsequent page relative  
25 to the present page. Additionally, menu **404** may allow a user to disable history recording through the selection of a button.  
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Preferences such as those illustrated in **Figure 4** may be set through preferences **408**. The disablement of this history recording is accomplished by setting a preference in preference **408**.

5       Communications **410** is the mechanism with which browser **400** receives documents and other resources from a network such as the Internet. Further, communications **410** is used to send or upload documents and resources onto a network. In the depicted example, communication  
10      **410** uses HTTP. Other protocols may be used depending on the implementation. Documents that are received by browser **400** are processed by language interpretation **412**, which includes HTML unit **414** and JavaScript unit **416**. Language interpretation **412** will process a document for  
15      presentation on graphical display **418**. In particular, HTML statements are processed by HTML unit **414** for presentation while JavaScript statements are processed by JavaScript unit **416**.

Graphical display **418** includes layout unit **420**,  
20      rendering unit **422**, and window management **424**. These units are involved in presenting Web pages to a user based on results from language interpretation **412**.

Privacy processes **426** is the portion of browser **400** in which processes for defining, locating, and removing  
25      information may be implemented in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention. Of course, these processes may be implemented elsewhere, such as, for example, in a plug-in or as a separate application or program.

30       Browser **400** is presented as an example of a browser program in which the present invention may be embodied.

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Browser **400** is not meant to imply architectural limitations to the present invention. Presently available browsers may include additional functions not shown or may omit functions shown in browser **400**. A browser may 5 be any application that is used to search for and display content on a distributed data processing system. Browser **400** make be implemented using know browser applications, such Netscape Navigator or Microsoft Internet Explorer. Netscape Navigator is available from Netscape 10 Communications Corporation while Microsoft Internet Explorer is available from Microsoft Corporation.

With reference now to **Figure 5**, a diagram of graphical user interface for defining privacy preferences is depicted in accordance with a preferred embodiment of 15 the present invention. Window **500** is an example of a graphical user interface (GUI), which may be used to obtain user input in pre-defining information that is to be removed from a history.

In this example, field **502** contains entries **504**, 20 **506**, **508**, and **510**. Entry **504** is a phone number, entry **506** is a social security number, entry **508** is a birthday, and entry **510** is a password. These are strings of information that are removed from a history by the browser in these examples. Additional entries may be 25 defined by selecting "Add" button **512**. Entries may be removed by selecting an entry and "Delete" button **514**. Additionally, multiple entries may be selected and deleted using "Delete" button **514**. The selection of "Done" button **516** will result in a new version of the 30 file being created. Selection of "Preview" button **518** results in a display of Web pages containing the

confidential information, as described with respect to **Figure 7** below.

Turning next to **Figure 6**, a diagram of a input window is depicted in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention. Window **600** is an example of a window, which may be displayed in response to "Add" button **512** in **Figure 5**. Information that is to be removed from a history may be defined or entered in field **602** by a user. The information is entered in the form of a string in these examples. Selection of "Okay" button **604** results in the entry being added to field **502** in **Figure 5**. Selection of "Cancel" button **606** results in any input into field **602** being canceled and the closure of window **600**.

With reference now to **Figure 7**, a diagram of a preview of Web pages is depicted in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention. Window **700** is generated in response to a selection of "Preview" button **518** in **Figure 5**. In these examples, the preview presents thumbnails, such as thumbnails **702**, **704**, **706**, **708**, **710**, **712**, **714**, **716**, and **718**. A thumbnail is a miniature representation of a Web page or image. A thumbnail may be generated by a thumbnail program. This program may be stand-alone or part of a desktop publishing or graphics program. Thumbnails provide a convenient way to browse through multiple images before retrieving the one you need. Programs often let a user click on the thumbnail to retrieve a full or larger representation of the Web page or image.

Selection of "Cancel" button **720** results in window **700** being closed. Selection of one of the thumbnails

results in a Web page associated with the Web page being opened and presented for review as described below in **Figure 8**.

Turning next to **Figure 8**, a diagram of a Web page presented in a window is depicted in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention. Window 800 is an example of a window presented in response to a selection of a thumbnail, such as those illustrated in **Figure 7**. Web page 802 is presented within window 800.

5 This Web page is associated with a thumbnail selected in window 700 in **Figure 7**. In this example, confidential information 806 is located within Web page 802.

10 Confidential information 806 may be, for example, a credit card number, a birth date, or a social security

15 number. Selection of "Delete" button 804 results in confidential information 806 within Web page 802 being deleted or removed from the history while leaving the remainder of Web page 802 intact. Alternatively, the entire Web page may be deleted. Selection of "Cancel"

20 button 808 results in the closing of window 800.

A similar type of window may be used to present other data structures that may contain confidential information, such as a cookie. In this instance, the cookie may be represented with a graphical representation

25 or an icon rather than a thumbnail. Selection of this representation results in the information within the cookie being displayed to the user. Alternatively, the presentation of this information also may take the form of a tree in which the nodes of the tree represent Web

30 pages or cookies. The selection of a node results in a representation of the Web page or cookie similar to that in **Figure 8**.

With reference now to **Figure 9**, a flowchart of a process used for removing information from a history is depicted in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention. The process illustrated in **Figure 9** 5 may be implemented in a browser, such as browser 400 in **Figure 4**.

The process begins by selecting an unprocessed confidential entry from a list (step 900). The list is one that is pre-defined or generated by a user in these 10 examples. This list may be generated through a GUI, such as window 500 in **Figure 5**. Next, a search is made for confidential information within the history matching the confidential entry from the list (step 902). Each 15 instance of information matching a confidential entry is deleted from the history (step 904). A determination is then made as to whether more unprocessed confidential entries are present (step 906). If more unprocessed confidential entries are present, the process returns to step 900 as described above. Otherwise, the process 20 terminates.

Turning next to **Figure 10**, a flowchart of a process used for defining information for removal is depicted in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention. The process illustrated in **Figure 10** may be 25 implemented in a browser, such as browser 400 in **Figure 4**. These processes are used in conjunction with a GUI, such as those illustrated in **Figures 5-8**.

The process begins by displaying a presentation window (step 1000). This presentation window may be, for 30 example, window 500 in **Figure 5**. Next, a user input is received (step 1002). This user input is typically made

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through a pointing device, such as, for example, a mouse, a trackball, a touchpad, a light pen, or a keyboard.

A determination is then made as to whether an entry has been selected by the user input (step **1004**). If an entry 5 has been selected, the selected entry is highlighted (step **1006**) and the process returns to step **1002** as described above.

If an entry has not been selected by the user input, a determination is made as to whether the user input is a 10 selection of a "Delete" button (step **1008**). If the user input is a selection of a "Delete" button, any selected entries are deleted (step **1010**) with the process returning the step **1002** as described above. Otherwise, a determination is made as to whether the user input is the 15 selection of an "Add" button (step **1012**). If the user input is the selection of an "Add" button, a new entry is added (step **1014**) with the process returning to step **1002** as described above. The adding of the entry may take place using an interface, such as window **600** in **Figure 6**.

20 If the user input is not the selection of the "Add" button, then a determination is made as to whether the user input is the selection of a "Preview" button (step **1016**). If the user input is a selection of a "Preview" button, the preview process is initiated (step **1018**) with 25 the process returning to step **1002** as described above. The preview process is performed using window **700** in **Figure 7** and window **800** in **Figure 8**.

Otherwise, a determination is made as to whether the user input is the selection of a "Done" button (step 30 **1020**). If the user input is the selection of a "Done" button, the process terminates. Otherwise, the process

returns to step **1002** as described above.

Turning next to **Figure 11**, a flowchart of a process used for defining information for removal is depicted in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention. The process illustrated in **Figure 11** may be implemented in a browser, such as browser **400** in **Figure 4**.

The process begins by receiving a user input to add a confidential entry (step **1100**). This user input may be the selection of a control, such as "Add" button **512** in **Figure 5**. Next, the user is presented an input window (step **1102**). This input window may be implemented using window **600** in **Figure 6**. Thereafter, a user input is received (step **1104**). A determination is made as to whether the user input is an entry of a new confidential entry (step **1106**). A new confidential entry may be made in a field, such as field **602** in **Figure 6**. If the user input is not the entry of a new confidential entry, a determination is made as to whether the user input is to cancel the procedure (step **1108**). The procedure may be canceled using a control, such as "Cancel" button **606** in **Figure 6**. If the user input is not to cancel the procedure, the process returns to step **1104** as described. Otherwise, the user is returned to the presentation window (step **1110**) with the process terminating thereafter. The presentation window may be, for example, window **500** in **Figure 5**.

Turning back to step **1106**, if the user input is the selection of a new confidential entry, the confidential entry is added to the list (step **1112**) and the process proceeds to step **1110** as described above.

With reference now to **Figure 12**, a flowchart of a process used for previewing Web pages containing confidential information is depicted in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention. The 5 process illustrated in **Figure 12** may be implemented in a browser, such as browser **400** in **Figure 4**. The process may be implemented using, window **500** in **Figure 5**, window **700** in **Figure 7**, and window **800** in **Figure 8**.

The process begins by receiving a selection of a 10 confidential entry (step **1200**). This selection may be initiated through a selection of "Preview" button **518** in **Figure 5**. Next, a search for Web pages containing the confidential entry is made (step **1202**). Thumbnails of pages containing information matching the confidential 15 entry are presented to the user (step **1204**). A user input is then received (step **1206**). A determination is then made as to whether the user input is the selection of a "Cancel" button (step **1208**).

If the user input is the selection of a "Cancel" 20 button, the process terminates. Otherwise, a determination is made as to whether the user input is the selection of a thumbnail (step **1210**). If the user input is not the selection of a thumbnail, the process returns to step **1206** as described above. If the user input is 25 the selection of a thumbnail, a Web page corresponding to the thumbnail is displayed to the user (step **1212**).

Next, a second user input is received (step **1214**). A determination is then made as to whether the second user input is the selection of a "Delete" button (step 30 **1216**). If the second user input is not the selection of a "Delete" button, a determination is made as to whether

the second user input is the selection of a "Cancel" button. If the answer to this determination is no, the process returns to step **1214** as described above. If the second user input is the selection of a "Cancel" button,  
5 the display of the Web page is removed (step **1220**) and the process returns to step **1206** as described above. With reference again to step **1216**, if the second user input is the selection of a "Delete" button, the information within the Web page corresponding to the  
10 confidential entry is deleted (step **1222**) with the process proceeding to step **1220** as described above.

A similar process may be used to preview or review information within a cookie file. Icons may be used to represent information with text information being  
15 displayed from a cookie in response to the selection of an icon.

It is important to note that while the present invention has been described in the context of a fully functioning data processing system, those of ordinary skill in the art will appreciate that the processes of  
20 the present invention are capable of being distributed in the form of a computer readable medium of instructions and a variety of forms and that the present invention applies equally regardless of the particular type of  
25 signal bearing media actually used to carry out the distribution. Examples of computer readable media include recordable-type media, such as a floppy disk, a hard disk drive, a RAM, CD-ROMs, DVD-ROMs, and transmission-type media, such as digital and analog  
30 communications links, wired or wireless communications links using transmission forms, such as, for example, radio frequency and light wave transmissions. The

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computer readable media may take the form of coded formats that are decoded for actual use in a particular data processing system.

The description of the present invention has been  
5 presented for purposes of illustration and description,  
and is not intended to be exhaustive or limited to the  
invention in the form disclosed. Many modifications and  
variations will be apparent to those of ordinary skill in  
the art. The embodiment was chosen and described in  
10 order to best explain the principles of the invention,  
the practical application, and to enable others of  
ordinary skill in the art to understand the invention for  
various embodiments with various modifications as are  
suited to the particular use contemplated.

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